



The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Conference Call/Virtual (COVID-19 protocols)

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday, August 1, 2022

Meeting Minutes

I. Commissioner Attendance:

Donna Abbott	Member	N
Sherry L. Ayers	Madam Chair	Y
Claude A Bowen	Vice Chair	Y
Peter Brooks	Member	Y
Kerry Hawk Lessard	Member	Y
Tiara Thomas	Member	Y
Stanley Thompson	Member	Y
Guy Wells	Member	Y

GOCI/MCIA Staff:

E. Keith Colston, Director Ethnic Commissions/Admin. Director of MCIA
Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator – Ethnic Commissions of GOCI
Maureen Regan, Communications Director of GCO
Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director of LGBTQ Affairs

Guests:

Michelle Swann, Emily Paki, Stephanie Cassidy, Jennifer Vance, and Rico Newman

II. Call to Order and Welcome Remarks – MCIA Sherry Ayers

Madam Chair Sherry Ayers called meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Invocation: Commissioner Peter Brooks

III. Guest Presenters:

a. Kari Sprengeler – Cultural Resources Local Programs Lead – MDOT

Their section will be sending an adverse effect letter to the Maryland Historical Trust and asking for comments from consulting parties regarding the construction of a roundabout on MD 223, the Piscataway Road and Floral Park Road, and this project is to address high crash rates at this intersection location. This project is in Southern Prince George's County, on what was historically Piscataway land. The Piscataway groups and the Commission will be included as consulting parties on this project. The project itself, is going to adversely affect the Piscataway Village historic district, which is listed in the National Register of Historic places in 2011. It is considered significant from the year 1743 to 1943 for its early association as a tobacco port on Piscataway Creek and this intersection itself is also at least 150 years old. There are no known Piscataway archaeological sites or other architectural site that represent native people at this locale, but it's known that the Piscataway used the area prior to euro American encouragement. Early Colonial records also discussed the presence of the Piscataway at that creek and the fact that Jesuit priests came to the creek to try to convert the Piscataway people to Catholicism. The Commission and the Piscataway groups are going to be included in our ongoing consultation to address the adverse effects to the historic district and the intersection. The Manage Lane survey is one of their biggest projects. The programmatic agreement was executed on June 14th and the final environmental impact statement went out on June 17th. They are currently working on the cemetery treatment plans and archaeological treatment lands for this

project. The historical markers initiative is also moving along. There are several submissions in various stages of the application and production process. If the Commissioners or anyone attending the meeting today, would like to propose a historical marker, please let them know. The bulk of this has moved over to the Secretary's office at MDOT with Dr. Julie Schablitsky, who's the Chief of Cultural Resources. She can be emailed at jschablitsky@mdot.maryland.gov.

b. Maria Day–Director, Special Collections, Conservation & Library Services–MD State Archives

MSA team has been doing a lot of work on the indigenous records website. It is slated to be launched this late September. The name selected for this website is “Mayis”. It is the Algonquin language that is spoken on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake. A short-term goal will be to reach out to community members who agree to participate in some design and functionality feedback. There will be a feedback form on this new website, so that anyone using the site can submit ideas or feedback on how it's used. Their summer intern project is coming to an end and the intern, Ms. K. Post has done a lot of things. She has helped to review the database, categorize the entries so that they can create a search tool that will allow you to refine the search to a person's name, a tribal or community name, a geographical location, an action, or a specific event. They are also creating a new list of government records that they want to digitize in the future and transcribe. Maryland State Archives has received a Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant to support an indigenous archive project for the eastern shore of Maryland. This grant should continue for at least a year to a year and a half. This will help them to focus and interact with tribal people and tribal communities on the eastern shore that are part of the heritage areas that they have been working with. Also, to provide funding for outreach workshops for K to 12 educators, to some workshops that allow them to do outreach with tribal people on the eastern shore, and also, they hope to fund an oral history project with tribal elders on the eastern shore as part of this capturing and being able to record the important stories and traditional knowledge of people, their landscapes, the waterways, and the history. There's additionally some support for hiring college students, and that is something that they intend to heavily advertise with the MCIA as well as travel contacts that we have, so that we get the most diverse pool of candidates for this grant. Madam Chair Ayers asked when will the grant begin, and it will begin in January 2023. She also inquired what do you (MSA) want to capture from the visitors that use this new website, Ms. Day will get back with her team to let us know. Maria Day can be emailed at maria.day@maryland.gov.

c. Dr. Elizabeth Rule – Assistant Professor – Critical Race, Gender, and Cultural Studies, American University-Washington DC

She has launched the Beta version of the Guide to Indigenous Maryland, which is a totally free and public facing mobile application. It's available on Apple, IOS, Android or Google platforms. This is the third iteration of digital maps and mobile applications that are part of her larger guide to indigenous lands project which seeks to make available to the public sites of indigenous significance across our cities, states, and other areas across the United States. The first was the Guide to Indigenous DC, which was launched in 2019 and the second guide she launched with the collaboration of Dr. Ashley Minner, is called the Guide to Indigenous Baltimore, which launched in November of 2021. This third guide has 21 sites that intend to be a representative of indigenous Maryland moving beyond archeology, and history. The goal of this project is really to illuminate contemporary indigenous communities, our modern issues as indigenous peoples, the diversity of indigenous peoples across the State of Maryland, and many ways in which we have contributed to this land and this space. As it being a representative to the 21 sites, anyone, including the millions of tourists who visit the DMV area can utilize this app for free and learn about some of these sites. The way that these sites came into existence was through her partnership with the Maryland State Library, and Prince George's Memorial County library system as well as all libraries and archives who supported this project. Then they took those sites and periodized them down again, backing them up with our archival information, and privileging the voices of local indigenous community members who were able to join their taskforce. They also had Maryland State Archives collaborate with this. If there are additional sites, additional pieces of information that you think would be helpful to the State or to a diverse audience, or indigenous community members, please let her know, since this is an ongoing project. Commissioner Thomas asked about how many sites are in Southern Maryland and it showing a breakdown for just Charles, Southern Prince George, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties? Dr. Rule informed that if you open the app, you will be able to visualize the map entirely and see where those sites are located. As mentioned previously, this is an ongoing project with a much larger series coming. Dr. Rule can be emailed at rule@american.edu.

IV. Administrative Report – Administrative Director E. Keith Colston:

Director Colston informed everyone that he was out of the office from July 4, 2022, through July 25, 2022 due to medical leave. He attended four meetings prior to his leave.

- a. St. Mary’s College in reference to the American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff, which is done annually by MCI.
- b. June 16, 2022, administrative meeting with Cheryl Madigan.
- c. June 28, 2022, he was part of a legacy meeting concerning information pertaining to tribal communities in the State of Maryland.
- d. June 29, 2022, tech meeting he participated in representing the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives.

V. Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives Updates:

a: Covid-19

Confirmed Cases over 1,181,209 – Current Hospitalization 624 - Confirmed Deaths at 14,715 (female at 7,015 and male at 7,700 and 80+ at 6,162).

Director Colston found out during his recent hospitalization, and follow-up doctor's appointment, he found out that his information (electronically) was incorrect concerning his ethnicity. He would encourage every person, whether you are hospitalized or not, that you do reaffirm with your health providers, doctors, or whoever that you do this with, make sure that your paperwork or electronic information is correct and up to date. Worst case scenario, if you pass away, there would have been an incorrect recording concerning my ethnicity. When he looks at the information that's being provided concerning COVID cases, we are still not listed concerning race and ethnicity, yet I would have been placed in the category of OTHER. This continues to be a problem statewide and nationally for tribal people being represented incorrectly. Commissioner Hawk Lessard her support as a stenographer or just promoting the Oral History project to elders in the community. Commission Thomas will encourage their students in Charles County of this project.

VI. Motions: Approval of Minutes:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote	
Approval of the Minutes for the 06-14-2022 Meeting	Kerry Hawk Lessard	Guy Wells	7Y-0N-0A	

VII. [Old] Business:

a. Petition Update:

Director Colston informed the Commission that Dr. Brian Crane has become the fourth RAC member and was able to perform his individual review of the petition in one sitting. He is with the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Office as a Cultural Resources Planner III. We are waiting to have a final fifth RAC member, who will be in reference to the Genealogy aspect. Once this individual comes forth and they are voted in and they have reviewed the petition, we will then have the group RAC meeting, pending the fifth and final individual selected in their review.

b. American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff

Director Keith Colston speaks on behalf of Dr. Julian King and two other staff members with Saint Mary’s College, we are 95% to 99% sure that this will be the location. There will be a follow up meeting (TBD) to finish the discussion. Per Madam Chair’s conversation with Dr. King, they can secure room that will seat up to 200 people.

VIII. New Business:

Commissioner Thomas requested a motion to say that a tribal contact list would be distributed to State and Official agencies within the State of Maryland, as what we already have on record with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs.

Motions: Submission of a Tribal Community Contact List to State and Official agencies within the State of Maryland:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	
Approval of the Submission of a Tribal Community Contact List to State and Official agencies within the State of Maryland.	Tiara Thomas	Guy Wells	6Y-1N-0A	

IX. Committee Reports:

1. Advisory Committee – No updated report provided.
2. Educational Committee – No update report provided.
3. Health and Mental Health Committee – No updated report provided.
4. Archaeology Committee – Vice Chair Claude Bowen provided his report.
5. Budget and Finance Committee – No updated report provided.
6. Working Group – No updated report provided.
 - a) Historical Sites and Tourism
 - b) COMAR Regulations for Maryland Indian Status

X. Public Announcements on future Community Events:

Commissioner Hawk Lessard – 08/06/22 Back to School dental event hosted by Native American Lifelines.
 Director Colston – Introduced GOCL’s new Administrative Director Jeremy Browning of the LGBTQ Commission.
 Commissioner Wells – 09/17/22 – 09/18/22 30th Annual Native American Festival 2022 – Hosted by The Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians at the Ballpark in Vienna, MD.
 Madam Chair Ayers – 11/06/22 46th Annual BAIC Pow Wow 2022 – MD State Fairground in Timonium.
 Commissioner Brooks – 09/18/22 Treaty of Shackamaxon Pow Wow at Penn Treaty Park, PA
 10/09/22 – 10/10/22 1st Indigenous People’s Day Parade in New York City at Randalls Island Park, NY

XI. Adjournment:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	Adjourn: 8:07 p.m.
Adjourn	Guy Wells	Claude Bowen	7Y-0N-0A	